

THE GUILD OF ST. BARNABAS

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SYMPOSIUM

HOW EFFECTIVE IS THE GUILD OF ST. BARNABAS? HOW CAN ITS PURPOSE BE MADE MORE SO? *

FROM a brief and limited personal acquaintance with the Guild of St. Barnabas, the writer has become convinced that it is an organization which is instinct with much usefulness to the great profession of nursing. Though coming in more or less competition of a friendly nature with the various training-schools for nurses in many of our cities, and though sometimes unable to compete in the scope of the programmes and in the variety of the social features provided by these alumnae associations, the Guild of St. Barnabas nevertheless possesses one chief characteristic which alone should insure its permanence and growth, namely, the religious atmosphere made possible by its manual, its rules, its services, and its general relationships. The religion of the sick-room is very much in evidence at present, and its importance is manifest not only by the careful, sane, and reverent principles found in the Book of Common Prayer, and therefore in the manual of the guild, but also by the manifold and widest-read vagaries of fanaticism and pantheistic neology, which, in the assumed name of Christ, have pretended to do so much good, and are actually doing so much harm, to those in sickness to-day. We would not be such sufferers from the crudities and covert blasphemers of Mrs. Eddy's cult and Mr. Dowie's following and all the rest if the spiritual atmosphere of the Guild of St. Barnabas were disseminated all through the numerous departments of the great medical profession. This is, to the writer's mind, the one supreme distinction of this admirable guild. So far as the other features of its work are concerned, namely, the educative, recreative, and social characteristics of its meetings, these are so largely controlled by the personal factors interested in any given branch that a generalization is uncalled for. A faithful chaplain, an able and thoughtful lay-secretary, an interested, wide-awake set of associates, these, with all the coöperation which the irregular time (tables) of the nurses themselves may make possible, will usually insure a series of valuable as well as entertaining meetings which will bring closer together the nurses and the laity who are interested in them and their noble work.

JOHN HENRY HOPKINS,

Chaplain of Epiphany Branch, Chicago.

IN answer to the question, "How effective is the organization known as St. Barnabas Guild? How can we make it more so?" I have no wish to sermonize, but it seems to me one may as well ask, "How effective is the church?" I feel we are all too anxious in every organization to do something big and great, not giving credit to the small and quiet good resulting day after day. St.

* Read at the Annual Council.

Barnabas Guild unites in one common spiritual and social bond nearly three thousand trained nurses in America. When it has alone done this, I think there can be no need to take means to make it *more* effective. The real outward success of this guild, after all, depends, more than in any other society of its kind, upon the interest of the associate members, and not of the nurses. The members, as dozens will attest, find comfort and satisfaction in belonging to the guild, and the words of a visiting nurse in reference to this is sufficient to demonstrate the point: 'My work is of such a nature that attendance upon church service is not always possible, and I find much for congratulation that I belong to the large army of nurses who may be allowed the privileges of this guild. I carry my manual in my satchel, and in going from case to case find comfort reading it.' Perhaps individual guilds now and then need waking up, because associates and lay people have grown lukewarm. I say associates, for while the guild belongs to nurses, the real success and interest must be kept up by the women who voluntarily pledge themselves to be of service in this way. The nurses themselves are overtaxed with their responsible calling, and this guild through its priests and lay members should furnish such spiritual need and social relaxation as each separate society may demand.

HARRIET FULMER,
Grace Church Branch, Chicago.

BOSTON BRANCH.—This branch of the Guild of St. Barnabas held its regular monthly meeting at St. Stephen's Church on Wednesday evening, November 26. Our old secretary, Miss Eaton, has been obliged to resign, to our great regret, owing to the pressure of her duties in the missionary work she has undertaken in the South End of the city. We cordially welcomed our new secretary-elect, Miss Mary Sargent. A committee, with Miss Sargent as chairman, was appointed to make arrangements for our Christmas-tree, which will be held on New Year's Eve at St. Stephen's.

At our service our chaplain urged us all to keep our Thanksgiving Day earnestly, and not to let it pass without each one trying to make the day happy for someone else.

Though only sixteen members were present, the meeting was full of the enthusiasm that always belongs to the Boston Branch.

We are sorry to announce that Miss Alice Hodgson, of the Whidden Memorial Hospital in Everett, has accepted an invitation to take charge of the hospital in New Britain, Conn.

ORANGE, N. J.—Following the calendar which has appeared for the guild year, the service in November was held at Christ Church, East Orange, with a very large attendance of active and associate members. Six active and one priest associate were received. The service was choral, and during the offertory a very beautiful anthem was rendered by Mr. Bland, whose fine tenor voice is well known in New York. The rector, Rev. W. W. Davis, gave a very striking address on the effect which religion had on the formation of character and its connection in a nurse's life. During the business meeting which followed in the parish-room a most admirable report was read by the active delegate to the council lately held in Philadelphia, giving to those not able to be there most vivid details concisely put together and bringing back the whole very clearly to those who had enjoyed the privilege of being present. Reports were made announcing

a musical tea and sale of stocks and Xmas cards to be held December 17 in the Grace Church Parish-House to defray the expenses of a room in the Nurses' Settlement for convalescent or slightly sick nurses, who will be cared for at a nominal rate. This is to be part of our winter's work. A very enjoyable tea had been provided by the ladies of the parish, and we were again favored by two solos by Mr. Bland; we greatly appreciated his kindness in affording us such a treat. The lovely flowers which formed the decorations were at the close generously distributed to any who were sick among the nurses and their patients, and sent with the love of those who had provided the tea. The opening of the Isolation Infirmary, November 25, has given us something very real to add to our thanksgiving season. It is complete in every detail, and while no one wishes to be the first occupant, it is a great relief to know it is there to be used. Miss E. Dechant has been suffering from a long siege of a low type of typhoid, but is now able to leave for a change of air. A badly sprained ankle kept Miss C. Thorndyke from her work for some weeks.

PHILADELPHIA BRANCH of the Guild of St. Barnabas met at the Church of the Ascension, Thursday, November 20, 1902, with our chaplain, Rev. G. W. Hodge, and Mrs. M. W. Brinkerhoff, our genial secretary, present, as well as some twenty other members and associates. It being the first meeting since the Annual Council, some time was given to listening to letters from some of the visiting members.

We had the pleasure of having a member with us from California. She spoke a few moments about the work on the Pacific Slope.

There was some discussion as to some definite work for the winter. One of the associates suggested that each member pledge herself to make at least two articles for some hospital or other worthy charity. The business meeting over, we went to the church proper for our service, where the Rev. Mr. Diehl gave us a delightful talk on the spiritual part of our work as nurses.

Service over, we returned to the lecture-rooms, where tea was served, and where we spent a pleasant half hour in social intercourse. It seemed to be the opinion of all present that the last council had been very helpful to the Philadelphia members of the Guild of St. Barnabas.

PROVIDENCE BRANCH.—The regular monthly meeting of the guild was held at St. Stephen's Church on Thursday, December 4. The guild office was said in the choir of the church by the chaplain, the Rev. S. B. Blunt. After the office the chaplain made a short address from the words, "Barnabas, a good man and full of the Holy Ghost." Mr. Blunt's words were earnest and practical. He dwelt especially upon the importance of personal goodness in the nurse—a goodness which can be felt by the patient.

The business meeting was held in the guild-room in the Parish-House. The names of Dr. W. L. Chapman and Dr. A. H. Miller were proposed as medical associates. Miss Maude Bonner and Miss Helen J. Bassett were proposed as associates, and Miss Elizabeth A. McNamara, a graduate of St. Luke's Hospital, New York, and Miss Sophia Hendrickson, a graduate of the Rhode Island Hospital, as active members.

At the close of the business meeting a very pleasant social hour was spent over refreshments provided by one of the associates.